

## CONCLUSION

We enter this debate recognizing that immigration reform can be a complex issue; indeed, previous immigration reforms have failed to meet the high standards that we establish for ourselves in this debate. For precisely this reason, we intend to lead a comprehensive immigration reform debate that unflinchingly addresses the difficult questions that are critical to any serious policy discussion. We look forward to the challenges ahead and to reshaping our immigration policy to strengthen America's control over its borders and to reflect the American values of hard work and family.

## U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of America's key foreign policy priorities in this new era—our relationship with India, a democracy with more than one billion people. U.S.-India relations continue to expand and to grow deeper in many areas, from economic and trade relations, to political and diplomatic ties; from the promotion of democracy internationally, to cooperation in such areas as environmental protection, health care, the exploration of outer space and the development of information technologies. Two areas in which our bilateral relationship has made particular progress are security cooperation and partnership in the international campaign against terrorism.

One tangible example of this newfound cooperation is taking place right now in Alaska. The second Indo-U.S. Joint Military Exercise began September 19 and will continue until October 11. The aim of the joint exercise is to learn from each other's experience and procedures towards achieving interoperability. Troops from the two countries are carrying out para-drops, scouting/airborne assault missions and progressed with various levels of joint firing exercises. The first joint airborne military exercise between the two countries was held at Agra, India in May of this year. I'm pleased to report that the distinguished Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh, traveled to Alaska on October 7, to witness the exercises. The Ambassador met Brigadier General John M. Brown III, Commander of the U.S. Army Alaska at Fort Richardson, who expressed his appreciation of the professionalism, discipline and adaptability of the Indian armed forces.

Defense cooperation between our two countries has emerged as one of the most important dimensions of the overall U.S.-Indian bilateral relations. A major joint naval exercise, named "Malabar IV" was successfully completed in the Indian Ocean last week. The Executive Steering Groups of all the three defense services are scheduled to meet again later this year to develop plans for additional joint exercises, training and other areas of cooperation.

Another recent example of our joint commitment for a more stable and secure world was the U.S.-India Security and Non-Proliferation Dialogue held in New Delhi September 23-24. India continues to make substantial progress

in meeting U.S. non-proliferation goals and is also committed to vigorously enforcing stringent export controls on dual-use technologies.

Mr. Speaker, since last September 11, the struggle against the international terrorist threat has been an overriding priority in all of our international relations. As President Bush told the world with admirable clarity, "Either you're with us or you're with the terrorists." India has clearly risen to the occasion and made it clear that it stands with us and against the terrorists—without any ambiguity.

In the year since September 11, 2001, India and the U.S. have forged an ever-closer partnership in the struggle against international terrorism—a partnership that had actually began in January 2000 with the establishment of the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism. The Commission has met five times since, and high-level consultations between key officials are ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the Bush Administration's recognition of the importance of India as a growing ally of the United States. The pace of bilateral engagement since President Bush took office has been unprecedented. The National Security Strategy of the United States, transmitted by President Bush to Congress in early September as a declaration of the Administration's policy, calls India "a growing world power with which we have common strategic interests." The report further states: "The Administration sees India's potential to become one of the great democratic powers of the twenty-first century and has worked hard to transform our relationship accordingly."

Our President and Prime Minister Vajpayee of India have established a strong working relationship, which symbolizes the friendship and partnership between our countries. We welcomed Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to the United States last month for the U.N. General Assembly meeting. During his stay in New York, the Prime Minister met with President Bush, and also attended commemoration ceremonies for 9/11—a further indication of the deep sympathy and strong sense of solidarity that the Indian government and people feel regarding the attacks on America.

At their November 2001 meeting, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee issued a joint statement outlining the broad scope of bilateral relations. The statement affirmed their commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming bilateral relations in pursuit of their many common goals in Asia and beyond. In addition to the increasing exchanges and technical cooperation in the defense and security areas, the President and Prime Minister also stressed the importance of policies to enhance the economic and commercial ties between our nations, and agreed to dialogue and cooperation in the areas of energy, the environment, health, space, export controls, science and technology, including biotechnology and information technology.

A major part of the human dimension to our bilateral relationship is the Indian-American community. Numbering more than 1.7 million, the community has played a leading role in bringing together our two great democracies. The community has also worked to educate us, the elected Representatives of the United States, about the importance of U.S.-India relations to build the security and prosperity that will benefit both of our peoples and create a more stable world.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
MILITARY SERVICE OF REGGIE  
FARMER

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service that Rutherford County Sheriff's Deputy and Air National Guardsman Reggie Farmer has given to his Middle Tennessee community and his grateful country.

Reggie has been serving active duty in the Air National Guard for the past year in the nation's ongoing war against terrorism. In fact, he just recently returned from Afghanistan where our brave military men and women have been fighting terrorists and restoring order in the war-torn country.

In his civilian life, Reggie serves Rutherford County citizens as a sheriff's deputy and Kittrell Elementary School students as a school resource officer. Reggie resumes his duties at Kittrell Elementary School on Tuesday, October 15, the day he officially retires from the military.

Reggie began his military career in April 1978 after enlisting in the United States Air Force. After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Reggie enlisted in the Air National Guard where he has been deployed all over the world. I congratulate Reggie on a long and honorable military career and join the rest of the citizens of Rutherford County in welcoming back home a true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE BAILEY, NEW  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Elsie Bailey, a constituent of mine from Whiting, New Jersey, who was recently elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, on August 28th, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Elsie Bailey was sworn in as President at the American Legion Auxiliary's 82nd National Convention. The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, with more than 10,500 units in every state and some foreign countries.

Founded in 1919, the Auxiliary consists of women whose husbands or other male relatives are members of the American Legion. The Auxiliary has over a million members today, including more than 15,000 in New Jersey, and operates hundreds of volunteer programs. Their dedicated and generous members provide thousands of hours of service to our Nation's veterans and to the communities in which they live. Through their efforts, millions of dollars have been raised to support veterans programs, as well as to support both national and local charities.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud of the fact that Elsie Bailey is the first woman from